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Christian Champion;

Being the Substance of

A Second DISCOURSE

To the Besieged Soldiers in

LONDON-DERRY:

First, To exhort them to put away every evil thing, that God may be mercifull to them in this time of Trouble.

Secondly, That they should be couragious in this Christian Undertaking, not fearing the Fury, or the Force of *Rome*.

By that Learned and most Loyal

Col. Walker.

CAMBRIDGE 1870 BRITISH

Printed for R. Brabsby. J. Deacon. J. Blare. J. Back. 1689.

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Licenſed according to Order.

July the 30th. 1689.

THE
Christian Champion, &c.

DEUTERONOMY XXIII. Chap. IX. Ver.

When the Host goeth forth against thine Enemies then keep thee from every wicked thing:

Ver. 14. *For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of the Camp to deliver thee, and to give up thine Enemies before thee; therefore shall thy Camp be holy, that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.*

THIS is an Exhortation given from the Word of God, and if we would be happy we must be Holy; we trust not only to an Arm of Flesh, but to the gracious dealing of a powerfull God, whose All-seeing Eye is over all our Actions; and put case we sin against him, How can we then expect a Blessing from him, who is of purer Eyes

than to behold Iniquity with Approbation? therefore let no Evil attend our Actions, we are here Beſieged with Enemies who ſtudies the Overthrow of the People of God, and would likewiſe Triumph over our Deſtruction, but keep cloſe to your Duty in the Service of the Living God, then will he prove your Protectour, Pſalm 84. 11. *For the Lord God is a Sun and a Shield, the Lord will give Grace and Glory, no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.* It is our Duty, at all times to live Circumſpect in this preſent Life, but eſpecially at this time when we are exerciſed under this ſharp Tryall of Affliction, being cloſely beſieged by a powerfull Enemy, and when we ſhall make our Sally forth, What Man is certain he ſhall return again? therefore let our Actions be ſeaſoned with Grace, and Holineſs, that whether we live or dye we may be acceptable in the ſight of God; therefore when we go forth let us keep clear from every evil thing: This War which we are engaged in, is not deſigned by us for the deſtroying of Cities, or the Deſtruction of Countries, but for the maintaining of the Goſpel-Truth againſt the common Enemy of Chriſtianity, thoſe that count they merit Heaven by Maſſacring and Murthering the People of God, and glory in the ſhedding of innocent Bloud; therefore as God ſhall bleſs us in this Undertaking let us keep our ſelves free from Evil; it is for the Glory of Heaven we venture our Lives, and who falls in the Field his Reward will be greater than his Loſs, it being in the juſt Defence of True Religion and Piety; let not our Foes affright us, nor any Fears attend us, for God will give the Victory

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to them that ſerve him, and make their Enemies fly before them, as Chaff before the Wind. How many ſignal Mercies have we been partakers off in our ſucceſsfull Sallies againſt our Enemies? And ſhall we now deſpair of God's Mercies (no, no,) he is able to Deliver us at the laſt moment, when we ſeem to ſtand tottering on the brink of utter Ruine; nothing is impoſſible with our great Creator; nothing can ſeperate us from the Love of God but our Sins; therefore let us make War againſt our corrupt Nature; let us deſtroy thoſe Sins which makes us Enemies to God; for, What is our Sighs, our Tears, and Prayers, if we ſtill continue to hug our Darling Sins? for, as the Pſalmiſt ſaith, *If I regard Iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me*; therefore let us be ſincere in what we profeſs, and not to go from Praying to our Pollutions, or from hearing the Word of God to the breach of his Commandments; he in his Holy Word hath afforded us many gracious Promiſes to ſupport our Spirits in the greateſt Troubles and Tryalls; therefore be of good comfort, and lay hold on the Promiſes of God by Faith. Joſhua 23. 5. *And the Lord your God, he ſhall expell them from before you, and drive them from out of your ſight, and ye ſhall poſſeſs their Land, as the Lord your God hath promiſed unto you*; therefore be exhorted like Chriſtian Champions to goe forth with Courage, Deuteronomy 31. 6. *Be ſtrong and of a good Courage; fear not; nor be afraid of them; for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth goe with thee he will not fail thee nor forſake thee.* Theſe moſt gracious Promiſes may be ſufficient for us to rely upon they are the Sayings of a God that is not only willing

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but able; no Forces, nor Power is able to diſappoint him in his purpoſe; it is not the great and mighty but the humble and meek that he hath a regard to; therefore put away every evil thing and it will go well with us, Iſaiah 1. 19. *If ye be willing and obedient you ſhall eat the good of the Land*, yet obſerve what is threatened to Perſons on the contrary, *ver.* 20. *But if ye refuſe and rebell ye ſhall be devoured with the Sword, for the Mouth of the Lord hath ſpoken it.* Here you may ſee what is required by God, and how gracious he will be upon the performance of your Duty; therefore, as in the Text, *When the Hoſt goeth forth againſt thine Enemy then keep thee from every wicked thing:* Our War is holy, and therefore we muſt be holy; our Sword muſt not be accompanied with Sins, which go forth in the fear of God, and the juſt Defence of the pure Religion; therefore while we purſue the Enemies of Righteouſneſs our Actions will be Crown'd with Victory, as the Prophet *Iſaiah* hath it in 41 Chap. and the latter part of the 12. Ver. *They that War againſt thee ſhall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought:* The Scriptures are full of theſe comfortable Sayings, ſo that though our Enemy may come againſt us with a ſtrong and powerfull armed Hoſt, and threaten this City with ruine and deſtruction, *yet if God be for us who can be againſt us.* Romans Chap. 8. and the latter part of the 31. Ver. for when *Pharaoh* and his Hoſt purſued after the Children of *Iſrael*, the Lord ſtretch'd forth his hand and ſhow'd his Power in overthrowing him and his Chariots in the Red-Sea, when at the ſame time his power preſerved his choſen People: What ſhall we ſay then? Can we

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not put our Truſt in him who is able to deliver his Servants at the greateſt Time of Danger? Here we read of wonderfull things which he hath performed for your Fathers of Old, and he is the ſame God now as then; let us be but faithfull Servants, and then we may aſſure our ſelves he will be a Shield of Defence, and a preſent Help in the Time of Trouble: When *David* was purſued by *Saul*, and hunted after like a Partridge upon the Mountains, yet God being with him his Life was preſerved, and his cruel Adverſary could not wrong him, his Heart was upright, his Conſcience was clear, therefore he had comfort in his Afflictions. Thus it may be with every Soul here, who labours to cleanſe his Heart from Sin, for nothing can burthen our Conſciences more, in a time of Diſtreſs, than a fearfull Remembrance of our Iniquities; therefore keep your ſelves free from every evil thing; it ought to be the care of every one preſent to ceaſe from Evil, and learn to doe well; a good Chriſtian makes a good Souldier, that will not fear to venture his Life in a good Cauſe, and if God be pleaſed to require it, patiently ſubmit, and then will he give you a Crown of Glory for your Reward, 2. Tim. 2. 3. *Now therefore endure hardneſs as a good Souldier of Jeſus Chriſt.* put away every Evil thing, God would have the Camp as pure as any College, or Chriſtian-Society; the Reaſons are plain, He that fights for the Glory of God, muſt be carefull that at the ſame time he does not ſin againſt that Divine Majeſty for whoſe Righteouſneſs he ſeems to contend, leſt his Wrath wax hot againſt us, and we are delivered up to the Fury of our Enemies, as a juſt Reward of our

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Impiety ; *put away every evil thing*, Epheſians 5. at the latter part of the 6 ver. *For becauſe of theſe thing cometh the Wrath of God upon the Children of Diſobedience.* Again, the Souldier ought to be prepared for another World before he goes out to face an Enemy ; for why, when we enter the Battel, Who is he that is certain to return again? you have every one a Soul to be ſaved, and how diſmal a ſtate would it be to be cut off in the midſt of your Iniquities, without having the opportunity of ſaying, *Lord have Mercy upon me?* Thus do you ſee how neceſſary it is to *put away every evil thing*, when you ſee how ſoon the ſlender Thread of Life may be broke, and you be hurried into everlaſting Miſery, therefore I hope you will all be exhorted, this day, to quit your ſelves as Chriſtian Champions both in the ſight of God and Man ; this War of ours is a neceſſary War, and not like thoſe reſtleſs Spirits who will not be at eaſe, but daily endeavours to intrench upon the priviledges of his neighbouring Countries, as *Ahab* who covered *Naboth*'s Vineyard, and could not be at Peace in his mind till he had enjoy'd it, becauſe it lay near him, as you may find in 1. *Kings* 21. we deſire nothing more than Peace, and the True Religion, Laws, and Liberties which we at preſent are denied by that French and Romiſh Enemy, the common Diſturber of *Europe*, and Perſecuter of the People of God, but good Lord, in thy due time. *Look on him that is proud and bring him low, and tread down the wicked in their place.* Job. 40. 12. ſo ſhall theſe Kingdoms flouriſh once again, and the Goſpel-Truth ſhine in it's full power ; but let us all walk worthy of that Heavenly Bleſſing, that Peace may be

be our Portion after the Victory over our Enemies; which we do not doubt but the Lord will give us, if our Sins do not provoke him to anger; therefore let our Camp be Holy, that he ſee no unclean thing that may cauſe him to turn away from us again; be ſtrong and couragious in the Lord, fear not the force of your Foes, for their Bounds are limited, and they can go no farther than God will give them leave, though they may reſolve for Ruine and Deſtruction, yet they ſhall be diſappointed in their Deſigns, for God will ſtill have a regard to his People, whoſe Hearts are upright before him, and will preſerve them under the ſhadow of his Wings from the Violence and Cruelty of wicked and perverſe Men, he will be in the midſt of our Camp, where his ſtrength and power will appear, if we by Faith and Patience can but wait a while to behold the Salvation of the Lord, he will be with us, and defend us from Danger, as he did his faithfull Servant *Daniel* in the Lyon's Den; his Power is great, and his Love is nothing leſs; he will not be wanting to thoſe who ſerve him with an upright Heart; he will be their Friend to comfort them, and will be a preſent Help in time of trouble; therefore be of good courage, and lay hold on thoſe gracious Premiſes of our good God; through his Bleſſing and Aſſiſtance we hope in due time we ſhall be able to weather the ſtorm of our preſent Miſeries, and live to enjoy a ſweet and pleaſant Calm, and the bright Sun-ſhine of Proſperity in this Land and Nation whereunto we do belong Let none be found to murmur or repine at the Divine Providence of God, for this his ſharp Rod of Correction upon us; we have ſinned, therefore we may well ſay, it

is good for us that we have been afflicted; for it's a proper means to take us home: we read in *Luke* 15. that the Prodigal never returned to his Father's House until he was afflicted with Want, and then coming to himself, he said, *How many hired Servants of my Father's hath Bread enough, and to spare, and I perish with hunger; I will arise, and go to my Father, and say unto him, Father I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son, make me as one of thy hired Servants.* This his Sufferings brought him to a true sense of his Sins, so that he humbled himself before his Father, and was graciously received. Thus we see how the Lord deals with his Servants when he finds them stubborn and disobedient, he will not destroy them but chastise them and correct them, *even as a Father do's his Son in whom he delighteth.* Prov. 3. 12. therefore let us draw near to him whose Love and Kindness never fails, he will be in the midst of our Camp, and Fight for us; then fear not but we shall have the Victory over all our Enemies; by one word of his Mouth he is able to do more than many armed Hosts, for they are but Men, whose Lives are in his Hand, he can deal with them as it pleaseth him best: Shall they fight against his Church and People, his Truth and Gospel, and set up an Idol-Worship, contrary to his Holy Word? I say, shall they doe all this, and yet go unpunished? No, the Lord will be avenged of them, and suffer them to fall before his chosen People; therefore let us not be in the least dismay'd, it is good for us that we have the Lord on our side, who has guarded, governed, and defended this City for these many Months past, and hath given

us many Inſtances of his Love and Kindneſſes, in bearing up our drooping Spirits to a miracle, during the time of this cloſe Siege; likewiſe affording us a happy Succeſs againſt our Enemies, he is gracious, and his Mercies endure for ever; he will not ſuffer his People to become a Prey to the Enemy, but will walk in the midſt of the Camp for their Defence; thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in thy Power, thy right hand, O Lord hath daſhed in pieces the Enemy, and in the greatneſs of thine Excellency thou hath overthrown them that aroſe up againſt thee, thou ſenteſt forth thy Wrath which conſumed them as ſtubble, *Exodus* 5. 6. 7. Hear may we learn how the Lord did appear in his power for his People in former Ages, and he will not be wanting to us now, if our Sins doth not ſeparate us from his Divine Love; he has loved us, and it is likewiſe our Duty to Worſhip him; the Life of a good Chriſtian is ſeaſoned with Heavenly Meditations, all the days of his Life he makes a Preparation for the hour of his Death; let every Soul preſent examine his heart, and labour to bring his Soul into ſuch a frame and temper as may be acceptable in the ſight of the Lord, and by ſo doing he will become our Friend, and will fight for us, ſo that our Enemies ſhall ſoon be ſcattered; this is the only way and method every good Chriſtian Souldier ought to take; for let me tell you, that Souldier that fights for Religion ought indeed to be a good Chriſtian, and then live or dye he is certainly happy. Holy *David* was a Warriour, and yet a Man after God's own heart; in a righteous Cauſe the Sword may be drawn, when it is to oppoſe the Enemies to Religion and Piety, ſuch that can commit every barbarous Outrage upon poor innocent People, without any remorſe of Conſcience, but on the contrary count their horrid Villanies juſt and meritorious; but, *He that ſitteth in the Heavens ſhall laugh; the Lord ſhall have them in deriſion.* Pſalms 2. 4. yet let us keep free from every evil thing, for the Lord is in the midſt of us, and ſeeth all our Actions, and ſearcheth into the Secrets of our hearts, there can be nothing hid from his Eyes; therefore how pure and holy ought our Lives to be, when we certainly know that we are always in the Preſence of

that God which will bring us to Judgment; *It is appointed for all Men once to die, and after Death to Judgment.* Again, what hardship we undergoe we must embrace it willingly, suffer chearfully, and wait the Lord's time for our Deliverance, which we hope will shortly be accomplish'd; in the mean while let us continue in our Duties, standing upon our Christian Guard, constantly praying and making our Supplications to that Great God who will not suffer us to fall; though we may be afflicted let us chearfully undergoe our present Miseries, and then we shall not fail of a Reward; the greater and more grievous our Crosses are in this Life, the brighter and more weightier shall our Crown of Glory be; he that suffers most in this World for his Saviour's sake, shall one day sit the neareſt to his Throne in the Presence of Saints, Angels, and the Spirits of Just Men made perfect. To which end God of his infinite Mercy bring us all. *Amen.*

A Prayer.

ALmighty and glorious Lord God, who never fails to succour those that put their Trust in thee, look down with an Eye of Pity and Compassion upon thy poor Servants, and suffer us not to sink under the weighty Burthen of our Sorrows; lift up the Light of thy Countenance upon us, and speak Peace to us, and say, I will deliver you for my Name sake: Let our Enemies be scattered before us, who stands in defiance of thee and thy Truth, arise, Lord, and help us by the power of thy out-stretched Arm, and let them know that thou art a God that can and will pull down the Pride of those that would not suffer thy People to live in Peace. Oh that our Hearts may be so upright before thee that every one of us may be worthy of those Mercies which we so earnestly desire, neither let us pray only for Mercies to come, but return our humble and hearty Thanks for those Favours already received, that we have hitherto been preserved, and not delivered up as a Prey to our Enemies; and for other Mercies, as, Health, Strength, Succour and Relief, it is of thy Mercy that we are not destroyed. Lord give us thankfull Hearts that we may make a sutable Return for all thy gracious Dealing towards us, that one Blessing may make way for another. Lord hear us, and answer us, and grant what we ask, and whatever else is needfull for us, through the Merits of thy dearly beloved Son, and our alone Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

FINIS.